

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON OAU SUMMIT SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITION

REF: STATE 008555

1. LIBERIAN POLICY ON ANGOLA HAS BEEN ON ALL FOURS WITH OURS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. TWO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS HAVE APPEARED IN PRESS SINCE OAU SUMMIT ENDED.

2. IN A LETTER TELEGRAPHED TO OAU CHAIRMAN AMIN ON JANUARY 15 PRESIDENT TOLBERT LAMENTED "THE IMPASSE AND DIVISION WHICH THE SITUATION HAS OCCASIONED IN THE OAU." OTHER EXCERPTS FOLLOW:
"WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REMAIN DORMANT, BUT MUST ENDEAVOR TO DEPLOY EVERY EFFORT WITH A VIEW OF EVOLVING A SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT AND DISTRESSING PROBLEM FACING OUR ANGOLAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS -- A PROBLEM WHICH TREATENS OUR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY." (THERE MUST BE)
"INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO EFFECT IN ANGOLA A CEASEFIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, AND END TO ALL FORMS OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA ... LET US SPARE NO EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT TAKES INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND OF GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT AS WELL AS

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THE AFRICAN TRADITION OF COMPROMISE CAN HARDLY BE SUBSTITUTED IF A

JUST AND ENDURING PEACE IS OUR OBJECTIVE IN ANGOLA." (FOREGOING AS PRINTED IN LIBERIA AGE.)

3. ON JANUARY 14 FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE WHICH REPORTED IN JANUARY 16 PRESS ALTHOUGH NOT SET FORTH IN FULL. COMPLETE TEXT OBTAINED FROM MINISTER; PERTINENT PORTIONS THEREOF FOLLOW:

4. BEGIN TEXT. BEFORE THE SUMMIT CONVENED IN THE EHTIOPIAN CAPITAL, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT ITS TASK WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, AS THE PROBLEM IT HAD TO TACKLE HAD BEEN MADE MORE COMPLEX BY (A) THE RECOGNITION BY SEVERAL OAU MEMBER STATES OF THE MPLA "GOVERNMENT"; (B) THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT BY FOREIGN INTERVENTION; AND (C) THE INCREASING ESCALATION OF THE WAR THROUGH MASSIVE SUPPLY OF ARMS AND PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN PERSONNEL.

WITH THESE FACTORS ADDING TO THE ALREADY COMPLEX PROBLEM OF THE ANGOLAN SITUATION, THE STAGE WAS SET, TO SAY THE LEAST, FOR A DIFFICULT OAU SUMMIT MEETING.

AFTER A FEW HOURS OF SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE OF THE PROBLEM BY THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT THOSE MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE MPLA FACTION, WISHED TO DISCREDIT THE FNLA/UNITA FACTIONS AND HAVE THE OAU RECOGNIZE THE FORMER AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. THESE COUNTRIES, WHICH BEFORE THE SUMMIT ADJOINED, HAD TOTALED 22, ALSO SOUGHT CONDEMNATION EXCLUSIVELY OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR ITS AGRESSION IN ANGOLA AND COMMENDATION OF THE USSR AND CUBA FOR THEIR "ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE".

LIBERIA AND 21 OTHER MEMBER STATES URGED: (A) AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE BY THE CONTENDING FACTIONS IN ANGOLA; (B) CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES; (C) WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM ANGOLA; (D) AND END TO THE MASSIVE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ALL THE FACTIONS; AND (E) RECONCILIATION BY THE WARRING FACTIONS WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

AS THE RESULT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM IS NOW WELL KNOWN, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONFIRMS THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ACOMMON OAU POSITION IN REPSECT OF THE ANGOLAN UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEM.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LIBERIA ARE DISAPPOINTED, BUT NOT UNDAUNTED (SIC), BY THE FAILURE OF THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO FIND, FIRST AND FOREMOST, MEANS OF ACHIEVING AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN ANGOLA. FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE BING KILLED, MAIMED AND HOMELESS WHILE THEIR FIELDS AND VILLAGES ARE TURNED INTO CHARRED BATTLEFIELDS. IT IS THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE WHO MUST PAY THE COST OF THIS BRUTAL

FRATRICIDAL WAR, AND IT IS THEY WHOSE WELFARE AND INTERESTS MUST CLAIM OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION. LIBERIA BELIEVES THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE ANGOLAN CRISIS BY MILITARY MEANS WILL LEAD TO A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF BLOODSHED AND DESTRUCTION WITHOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. THEREFORE, LIBERIA IS UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY SOLUTION.

LIBERIA IS PREPARED TO LEND ITS GOOD OFFICES WHENEVER AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A CEASEFIRE AND A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. END TEXT.
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